



**Yemen National Dialogue and Constitution Reform Trust Fund
MPTF OFFICE GENERIC ANNUAL PROGRAMME¹ NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT
REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2013**

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| <p>Programme Title & Project Number</p> | <p>Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results²</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme Title: Yemen National Dialogue and Constitutional Reform Trust Fund (YNDCRTF) • Programme Number 85672 • MPTF Office Project Reference Number:³ | <p><i>Yemen , country wide</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>Priority area/ strategic results</i> <i>National Dialogue</i></p> |
| <p>Participating Organization(s)</p> <p>DPA – OSASG (Coordinating entity) UNDP (didn't receive funding) UNHCR (didn't receive funding) UNICEF (didn't receive funding) UNOPS UNFPA(didn't receive funding) OHCHR (didn't receive funding) UN WOMEN (didn't receive funding)</p> | <p>Implementing Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Dialogue Secretariat (NDS) |
| <p>Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</p> <p>Total approved budget as per project document: 23.1 million MPTF /JP Contribution⁴:</p> <p>Total : 15,795,171</p> | <p>Programme Duration</p> <p>Overall Duration (<i>months</i>): 15 months</p> <p>Start Date⁵ (<i>dd.mm.yyyy</i>): 18 Feb 2013</p> <p>Original End Date⁶ (<i>dd.mm.yyyy</i>): 17 Feb 2014</p> <p>Current End date⁷(<i>dd.mm.yyyy</i>): 17 May 2014</p> |

¹ The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.
² Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) or project document;
³ The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as “Project ID” on the project’s factsheet page the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)
⁴ The MPTF or JP Contribution, refers to the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations, which is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)
⁵ The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)
⁶ As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.
⁷ If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities.

Government Contribution
USD 11,151,228 (not included in the total budget of the project document)
Other Contributions (donors)
USD 5,450,000 (not included in the total budget of the project document)

TOTAL:

Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Evaluation.

Assessment/Review - if applicable *please attach*
 Yes No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy*
Mid-Term Evaluation Report – *if applicable please attach*
 Yes No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy*

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This First Consolidated Annual Progress Report on Activities Implemented under the Yemen National Dialogue and Constitution Reform Trust Fund (YNDCRTF) covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2013. It reports on the implementation of the National Dialogue Conference (NDC) project, implemented by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and supported by the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary General on Yemen (OSASG).

This project provided support to the National Dialogue Secretariat (NDS) who was the national implementing government entity in this programme and was established to coordinate the NDC operational, technical support and communication/outreach.

The NDC was planned to conclude after six months, to be followed by a constitution drafting process. In the event, it took a further four months, until 25th January 2014, for the Conference to reach a conclusion. Further to this, Trust Fund contributions and pledges amounted to around \$18m, \$5m short of project budget of \$23.1m. It was therefore necessary to reorder spending priorities in favour of ensuring that the operational costs of an extended conference were met, this was achieved at the expense of resources planned to further communications, public participation and outreach.

At the end of this reporting period, the NDC had successfully concluded, in draft, upon a majority of the issues. These included some important and challenging outcomes on enhancing women's political participation as well as their social and economic rights, and on addressing the pertinent issues and confidence building measures of the southern questions. The SASG was in the process of facilitating dialogue and eventual agreement on the final points of contention that were blocking a comprehensive consensus on the outcomes, funded in part through this project.

I. Purpose

As called for in the Transition Agreement, the Secretary-General through his good offices is providing on-going assistance for the implementation of the transitional process in close cooperation with the international community. The Security Council resolution on Yemen (S/2012/2051), adopted on 12 June 2012, reaffirmed the need for the full and timely implementation of the Transition Agreement in accordance with resolution 2014 (2011), and "requests the Secretary-General to continue to coordinate assistance from the international community in support of the National Dialogue and transition, as stipulated in the Implementation Mechanism of the GCC Initiative".

At a time of significant opportunities and high stakes for Yemen's future, the programme represented the UN's commitment to deliver support as One, through coordinating other existing funds and the pooled resources, for stronger unity of purpose, increased effectiveness for Yemeni partners and donors alike. By bringing under one common approach the UN's support to both the National Dialogue, including the on-going preparatory phase, and the subsequent Constitutional

process, the program was designed to promote coherence and continuity of efforts, and allow for greater flexibility in resource allocation.

The objective of the UN Integrated Programme was to support Yemeni efforts to organize and manage a Yemeni-led National Dialogue and Constitution-making process that is effective, transparent, inclusive, and participatory - thus contributing to a timely and successful completion of the second phase of the transition. The UN role in support of the transition was multi-faceted, and included a combination of facilitation and direct technical assistance to the National Dialogue, with support to large scale, Yemeni led outreach throughout the country to ensure that the process is transparent, inclusive, participatory and meaningful.

The integrated programme was designed to bring together the various mandates and capacities of the UN system and the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary General on Yemen around a coordinated set of interventions to assist Yemeni actors in their implementation of major milestones of the political transition. These include the provision of technical and political advisory services, support to the operations of the NDS, and outreach to various constituencies, including children/adolescents, women, Internally Displaced Peoples (IDPs), minorities and youth to ensure that the Dialogue is inclusive.

II. Results

Summary of NDC progress:

The Dialogue was divided in to three stages. The first stage included a 1st round of plenary sessions and was then followed by the 1st round of working group sessions which were completed without delays. The second stage included the midterm plenary sessions and was followed by a 2nd round of Working Groups.

The Conference was conducted with a high level of geographic, political and demographic inclusiveness. Ministers, tribal leader, independent youth and women, political activists from all political parties and movements including Houthis and some of the Hiraak sent representatives to attend the NDC. The conference was broadcast live on all national TVs and radio stations. Along with the launch, a promotional video was released, developed with the support of UNDP, which highlighted children's hopes for the future of the country and was broadcast on the national TV networks. The National Dialogue was widely publicised throughout the country across all media including TV, radio, outdoor media (banners, posters), and print.

Working Group sessions were informed by provision of 19 technical advisers and UN political officers. Responding to requests submitted by the NDC delegates and from the NDS, these experts provided briefings on thematic issues, facilitated informal discussions on the margins of the Conference, and prepared several background papers and briefing notes. Working Groups visited 18 out of 21 governorates (number of governorates rose to 22 in October 2013 when Socotra became a governorate), and conducted 274 consultations with over 13,000 people.

Only two Working Groups were able to submit their final report for the final plenary initially planned for 18th September. In view of the need to reach a comprehensive consensus on all of the key issues, the Conference continued and on 25 October President Hadi called for a final plenary to follow the third plenary. During this period there were temporary suspensions of participation by some political constituencies which caused the conclusion of the Conference to be pushed back until mid-January 2014. Under guidance and political facilitation of the SASG, and with resources from this project, a number of political facilitation initiatives were developed to resolve outstanding points of contention over the NDC outcomes. These included a new mechanism, the '8+8' sub-committee which was created to resolve the outstanding issues of contention around the southern issue.

i) Narrative reporting on results:

Outcome 1: Implementation of the Agreement moves forward according to agreed timelines and steps, on the basis of quality technical, financial and administrative support.

Under this outcome of the project, the peaceful transitional process was to be facilitated operationally and supported technically throughout the period. The NDC was launched on 18th

March 2013 and was supported by the NDS which was fully functioning by end of March 2013. Technical support was provided by the OSASG and other international counterparts to facilitate the Working Groups sessions through various means including facilitation of discussions, provision of working papers, manuals and some capacity building. On account of the extensions to the NDC there were additional demands on the operational costs under the budget of the project. Furthermore there was greater need for political facilitation by the Special Advisor to the Secretary General (SASG) and National Dialogue Secretary General (SGND), in cooperation with President Hadi to ensure participation of all political actors, and bringing the Conference to a successful conclusion. The Dialogue eventually ended on 25 January 2014, representing a huge step toward implementation of the GCC Initiative for a peaceful transition for Yemen.

The project built upon the preparatory phase work that was funded by the UN under the UN Peacebuilding Fund, which helped to pave the way for the establishment of the NDS in early 2013. With the support of UNOPS, the NDS was fully operational and provided logistical, technical and administrative support to the NDC and its Working Groups. As of 31 March 2013 91 positions for the NDS were filled and managed, including all those of significance to launch the National Dialogue and startup the conference sessions for the 565 delegates. As the NDS required additional people to work on the preparations of the conference, 72 volunteers assisted the NDS particularly in the areas of conference administration and outreach activities. By 30 June, 125 NDS staff were contracted by UNOPS with the complete version of the NDS structure, in addition to another 75 who were under service contracts for shorter term or volunteers. The NDS was operating in three locations: 1) the Movenpick Hotel (conference location); 2) Tourist City (close to the Movenpick Hotel); and 3) the co-located office with OSASG in Haddah.

The launch event was held on 18 March in the presidential palace. The NDS, with the support of the project, assisted the Presidential office to ensure the logistical and security services to facilitate the safe participation of high level Yemeni and international delegations. Security arrangements and measures were implemented during the event and the conference which included (60,000) security personnel deployed in Sana'a to secure the main locations and relevant areas and routes.

After the launch of the National Dialogue, the first round of Plenary sessions commenced on 19 March at the Movenpick Hotel and lasted for two weeks. Daily participation by up to 529 delegates and complemented by 200 representatives of the mass media and various national and international observer missions. On 1 April the NDS organized the elections for the chairs and deputy chairs of the nine Working Groups. Women were selected to chair three of the Working Groups. Technical support was provided throughout the preparatory phase by international experts deployed to conduct introductory sessions for the different constituencies present in the conference. To ensure efficiency of the Working Groups discussions and moving the working plan forward, interpreters were recruited for interpretation services during the sessions with the experts deployed by the OSASG and Resident experts who were deployed by various International agencies to support the Working Groups. To help ensure the smooth functioning of the Working Groups and their ability to reach consensus in a timely manner, the NDS trained 30 facilitators, 19 of whom worked directly with the chairs and deputy chairs of the Working Groups in different phases in the NDC. 19 international experts were deployed to provide technical support to the Working Groups and the Consensus Committee as well as to assist in the preparations of the constitution-making process.

The Mid-Term Plenary was successfully launched on 8 June and lasted for four weeks. The launch event was held at the Presidential Palace while the remaining sessions were held in the NDC venue at the Movenpick Hotel. The Plenary was followed by a period of the 2nd round of Working Group sessions. Daily support was provided to ensure the smooth running of the sessions. Support included:

provision of security, in-country travel of delegates, transport of volunteers, conference venue and related services, translation / interpretation, technical support (facilitators, national experts, working papers, studies, field visits to relevant entities, etc.). The Consensus Committee (CC) was also established in order to help the Conference to reach agreement on all issues of the conference, consisting of the Chairs of the Working Groups and NDC presidium, with operational and technical support under this project.

The 2nd round of the Working Groups was planned to be completed by 18 September. However, periodic suspensions of some of the political constituencies delayed this. Facilitated by the SGND and SASG agreements were reached that enabled resumption of full participation in the Working Groups. Some of the Working Groups managed to submit their reports as planned; Independent Institutions, Development, Good Governance, Rights and Freedoms and Army and Security, whilst the final three submitted their reports late.

A significant challenge to the closure of the NDC was reaching consensus on the Southern issue. Intensive mediation efforts by the President, SASG and SGND helped to facilitate the Just Solution Agreement on the southern issue, which contained core principles for the creation of a new federal state and provided for a mechanism to determine the specification of the federal regions during the immediate post-NDC period.

The final Plenary session was launched on 8 October but owing to ongoing efforts to reach consensus on some issues the name of the plenary was changed to the third plenary session. This enabled those Working Group reports that were already finalised to be presented for adoption, whilst the 8+8 sub-committee continued to secure consensus on outstanding items under the Southern issue. Working Groups voting on all reports was delayed until agreement on a consolidated outcome document. In the meantime, feedback on the working group reports was received and some provisions were modified with the assistance of the Consensus Committee. The third plenary concluded on 16 January 2014 with the adoption of the NDC outcome document and the NDC formally closed on 25 January 2014.

In order to service the prolonged Conference, UNOPS extended the contracts for venue and for all the related services (without unit cost increase). Furthermore, smaller contracts for services and logistical support were provided to enable the Special Adviser to host thematic meetings with NDC delegates.

In order to spread the burden of the extended Conference among all supporting donors, including those outside of the Trust Fund, UNOPS reached out to USAID and their implementing partner IOM to mobilize additional funding. This covered approximately \$0.5m of conference-related expenditures for the period late December 2013 to early January 2014.

Outcome 2: The outcome of the Implementation of the Transition Agreement reflects an inclusive, transparent, meaningful and participatory process. (Indicators: Citizen participation in National Dialogue; Level of awareness; Outcome document and level of inclusion of stakeholder considerations; Disaggregated voter turnout at Constitutional referendum)

In mid-February 2013, the NDS established its Media Department and a Community Participation Unit. With the support of OSASG and international technical advice recruited under the project, this unit developed a comprehensive communication strategy for the NDC period for communications and media engagement, and public outreach, education and participation.

The strategy was divided and released in four phases to match each segment of the process. During the first phase (mid-February-31 March), the focus was on raising awareness about the NDC and winning the public acknowledgement of the dialogue as crucial means to the success of the overall transition. In the second phase (April-July), the priority was on keeping the public informed of the progress of the Working Groups meetings and lay the ground for community participation activities while continuing to educate the public on the NDC process and scope. In all these phases, particular attention was given to managing the expectations of the public, adapting the messaging to different audiences and regions, and mitigating/managing the challenges presented by a deeply distrustful population in the South and anti-NDC campaigns in some elements of the media.

During the third phase, the NDS started a campaign to promote the mid-plenary outcomes and to advocate for the final outcomes of the Conference, and continued its work providing and coordinating information and education to the public.

The final phase is planned to follow the closure of the NDC in 2014. It will aim to raise public awareness about the outcomes the NDC concluded and to explain how the NDC will feed into the next phases of the transition, the constitution making process and subsequent legislation and government policy development.

Under the communications pillar of the strategy, activity is commenced with creating a visual identity for the NDC and launching its online platforms (dedicated website and social media pages on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube). In parallel, 4 Radio flashes, 9 TV flashes and 4 TV generic animations were produced with help of UNOPS and UNDP. A first round of the outdoors campaign was also launched in 14 governorates with around 4700 m2 of billboards, lampposts and banners. Furthermore, 18 local banks placed the NDC logo on their ATMs and 3 bulk SMS were sent to 6.5 million users. In addition, and with the help of IOM, the NDS established a media centre at the conference venue, fitted with 20 working-stations; high speed Internet and dedicated sets for televisions and radios. By the launch of the NDC on 18th March 2013, 720 journalists representing over 105 media outlets inside and outside Yemen were accredited.

Television was chosen as the main media tool used by the NDC communications and media department in this project on account of research that showed that over 80% of Yemenis reported using TV as their primary source of information. Live coverage of the plenaries was provided at the expenses of the NDS (with government/Saudi funds, not Trust Fund resources) as the state owned broadcaster, Yemen TV, declined to provide this free of charge. Over 1000 live hours were broadcast by 5 Yemeni channels and 1 regional news channel (Aljazeera Mubasher). During the first and the last plenaries, the number of channels broadcasting the proceedings live reached 13 (8 local and 5 Pan Arab). The NDS also produced over 175 TV flashes, 18 of which were developed in collaboration with UNDP (financed through a complementary peacebuilding project) and others were written with the assistance of NDI and UNOPS. Most of the flashes were dedicated to promote and explain the outcomes of the NDC. NDS also contracted Yemen TV to produce a daily news show dedicated to the Working Groups meetings. Over 35 episodes were produced and broadcasted on TV, NDC website and social media platforms.

With the help of UNOPS, a Media Unit was created within the media department to create a video archive of all meetings and plenaries held in the NDC, and to prepare a daily summary for broadcast on all local and international channels. The unit, equipped with 10 cameras with their crews, worked as news agency for the NDC and recorded over 7800 hours of meetings and dispatched around 300 such daily feeds.

The NDS' online and social media presence included its website, Facebook, a YouTube channel and a Twitter feed. The NDC news website (www.ndc.ye) was the primary source of all Dialogue news (including news from the Consensus Committee, Presidium and NDS) and received around 3 million single visits since its creation in March. The website produced over 5,000 articles in both Arabic and English, which were all accessible through the Facebook NDC page (more than 127,000 followers by the end of the dialogue) and on Twitter (6,500 followers).

The NDS, assisted by UNOPS, developed an SMS system with the aim to send bulk SMSs with final outcomes and NDC news. Previously, the NDS used other INGOs resources to send NDC related messages. The estimate number of Yemenis reached through this tool exceeded 20 million.

Radio was equally important to reach Yemeni people, particularly illiterate citizens and those living in rural and remote areas. Two national and 12 local radios ensured around 400 hours of live broadcast and offered air space for NDC dedicated flashes, talk shows and competitions. NDS produced more than 250 radio flashes around NDC: four flashes before the start of the NDC; 80 civic education programmes during the second phase of the communication strategy; 100 radio flashes to promote the 2nd plenary outcomes; and over 70 radio flashes to promote and explain the final outcomes. All these materials were produced in the different Yemeni dialects and broadcasted in the 14 national and local radio stations. In addition, two competition programmes around NDC issues were broadcasted by Sana'a and Yemen FM radios. While the live broadcast of the plenaries was granted free of charge, the NDS covered production expenses and secured air space for most of other radio programmes and flashes.

As per print and online media, 3 campaigns aiming at advocating for the NDC outcomes were launched during different periods of the NDC. The campaigns targeted 38 newspapers and several websites, especially in the South. Print and online outlets were daily informed of the progress of the NDC works by a mailing list dispatched to around 1000 journalists and media organizations and through NDC website. Besides, a systematic monitoring of NDC reporting by newspapers and websites revealed that around 42,000 articles were produced over a year of dialogue, with a daily average of 120 articles.

Throughout the project, 102 Yemeni newspaper and news websites continued to regularly cover NDC and an average of 60 journalists were hosted daily in the conference venue and Media Centre. During some plenaries, this number increased to 150 journalists visiting the NDC venue daily. The Media centre also facilitated over 980 TV and 475 radio interviews and organized 14 press conferences given by the Special Adviser, the NDS and different NDC constituencies. The centre also facilitated dozens of hearing sessions, 5 town halls and numerous coordination meetings of Working Groups and constituencies.

Outdoor visual media campaigns were also used and this consumed a significant proportion of the budget allocated for media and communications. The 1st round targeted the main cities in 14 governorates including Aden, Al-Baidha, Lahaj and Al-Mukalla in the South. It started before the launch of the dialogue with around 18,000m² of billboards, lamp post and banners (part of it sponsored by public and private sectors). This did encounter some serious challenges in the South where around 70% of the outdoor materials were vandalised, destroyed or burnt. During subsequent rounds, the NDS adapted messaging that was more relevant to issues specific to the South and this resulted in less destruction of media with only 15% during the 2nd round and less than 1% during the last two rounds. The total of outdoors materials deployed with the help of UNOPS since the launch of the communication strategy exceeded 36.000 m².

To reduce the spending on the outdoors campaigns, NDS engaged different public and private

institutions and provided them with designs and messaging. The response was very positive as over 31.000 m² of additional billboards and lampposts were printed and placed in different governorates in the North thanks to this engagement.

In addition, indoors' visibility materials were provided in the venue of the NDC and during community participation activities and field visits. Other printed materials were also made available before, during and after the NDC. Thus, over 12000 "dialogue-in-a-box" were printed and distributed to CSOs and the general public (each box included a guide of issues discussed by NDC, mechanism of decision reaching and some visibility material such as pens and pins). In addition, 20.000 brochures (Q&A about the NDC) were distributed during community participation activities.

During the NDC, 10000 thematic booklets were printed with the help of UNOPS. The booklets summarize the visions of different constituencies regarding the main issues discussed such as the Southern question, Saada issue and the structure of the State.

The artistic community was also engaged around the NDC. 12 songs praising the dialogue and the peaceful transition in Yemen were produced and distributed to local TVs and radios. Furthermore, a "dialogue film festival" was organized with the help of UNOPS and witnessed the participation of around 50 young directors from both the South and the North.

With the help of OSASG, UNOPS and the active participation of IOM, the NDS provided a large range of community participation platforms and activities. Thus, 18 "dialogue tents" were established in 14 governorates and hosted face-to-face meeting and hearing sessions throughout 2013. Over 320 local CSOs were involved and around 3 million citizens took part in these activities. Prior to that, several orientation workshops and trainings on advocacy and dialogue facilitation were delivered to the partner CSOs.

The highlight of community participation activities remains though the launch of field visits during May and June 2013. Around 220 NDC delegates visited 18 governorates (plus Socotra Island) and met with local councils, governors and local authorities, unions, CSOs and ordinary citizens. In total, they organized 274 visits, 96 of which to governmental offices. The estimate number of Yemenis who participated in this operation exceeded 13,000. Full-scale media coverage (TV, radio print and online) was ensured for these field visits.

Furthermore, hundreds of submissions were received by the NDS either directly or through mail and social media. In total, around 500 booklets, paper works and reports were submitted in hand to NDS while another 1660 valid public contributions summarizing the views of over 35.000 citizens were received via email and Facebook.

The Community Participation unit also ensured access to local and international observers to attend NDC meetings and monitor the conference progress. In sum, these observers participated in over 320 sessions and meetings and some of them produced periodical reports reflecting their independent views and assessment of the conference progress.

Thanks to different partnerships with government entities and local CSOs, several activities aiming at engaging the public, were organized all over the country. One example of a fruitful partnership was with the Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Endowment. Four forums were organized in Sana'a and Aden with the participation of over 1500 Imams and scholars to encourage their support to the final outcomes of the NDC and their active participation in disseminating them to larger audience via mosques. Other partnerships were established with Ministry of Sports, Ministry of Tourism and the Sana'a Secretariat (the Mayor).

The implementation of the communications strategy faced numerous challenges. Some of them were related to difficult access to large areas in Yemen. The South was almost completely impermeable to direct communication activities because of the strong separatist and anti-transition feelings

prevailing in the street. Other rural and tribal regions were inaccessible to face-to-face or community participation activities for security reasons or geographical isolation. The NDS tried to overcome security concerns through greater reliance on audiovisual media, particularly radio. However, these measures proved to be of limited effects on account of the high rate of illiteracy (62%) and constant power cuts.

The Civic Education component of the communication strategy could not be properly implemented all over the country despite all the efforts of NDS and UN partners. The NDS, with the help of UNDP, Berghof Foundation and IOM, prepared dozens of videos and animations explaining the main issues discussed by the NDC and decision-reaching mechanism, but local media didn't dedicate sufficient programming to the same end. With their limited human and financial resources, local media focused on talk shows and paid little attention to explain the issues and mechanisms of the Dialogue to their audiences. NDS tried to overcome this obstacle by providing content and orientation to local media but were faced with exaggerated financial demands. Indeed, the lack of engagement of local media and their financial demands aborted or delayed some planned activities.

The communication strategy also faced challenges related to the duration of the Dialogue itself. From media perspective, the NDC was sometimes considered redundant and its outcomes to not appeal to the audience. From media strategy perspective, it's difficult to promote with consistent efficiency an event of such length or prevent the media from only focusing on sensational news. The NDS tried constantly to regenerate the interest in the process by being proactive and suggesting ideas, topics and formats to local media.

During the whole period, anti-NDC campaigns were launched. The NDS media team had to devise different contingency plans to face these malicious campaigns, particularly the attacks against the Just Solution Agreement for the South. NDS also devised an urgent communication plan for the President of the Republic and president of the NDS, which appeared to be effective and beneficial for the whole process.

The delay of NDC added to the complications faced in implementing the communications strategy. It contributed to strengthening the skepticism among the population and gave room for orchestrated propaganda campaigns to gain some popularity. The skepticism at the final stage of NDC was fed by the violence spread in different areas of the country (Saada and Sanaa in the North and Hadhramout and Dhale in the South). However, the successful end of the NDC created an incredible momentum and increased the trust of the public in the process.

Despite all these challenges, the NDS communications strategy managed to give a voice to large number of Yemenis and make all NDC related news accessible through various media. By doing so, it succeeded in translating 3 important principles of the NDC into reality: transparency, inclusiveness and meaningful participation.

Qualitative assessment:

At the time of reporting, the project was on track in providing effective support towards realizing a Yemeni-led National Dialogue process that is inclusive, transparent and meaningful. As a core state building and peace building step in Yemen's transition, the timeline and content of the National Dialogue process have been subject to contest and some amendment, and have been affected by developments in the wider political and security context of Yemen. These political and security risks

were anticipated at the outset of the project, and have been largely mitigated with support of political facilitation by NDS Secretary General and SASG utilizing resources under this project.

Overall coordination between donors and implementers within and outside the Trust Fund has been good. NDS has worked closely with all implementers to provide effective coordination and sequencing of inputs, particularly in the fields communications and public outreach. Nonetheless the extent of support was limited by a number of factors. First, the contributions from donors were not all timely, this meant that plans were dropped for UN agencies to target specific marginalized groups with greater assistance to be able to engage with the political transition. Second, the extended timeframe of the Conference forced a reprioritization of NDS resources in favor of operations. Third, whilst the quality of coordination meetings was good, the frequency should have been higher and NDS could have improved coordination through developing, sharing and maintaining a matrix of donor/implementer plans.

A number of exercises have been completed or are underway which will be used to review the implementation of the National Dialogue process in Yemen and to inform the conduct of the Constitution Drafting process in 2014. These include an evaluation of the NDS organization structure conducted by GIZ, a 'Lessons Learned' exercise conducted by OSASG, and perceptions surveys.

There were also partnerships forged with relevant government institutions with regard to briefing and engaging with the NDC Working Groups and supporting the civic outreach, such as the NDS youth campaigns which included competitions, messages delivered in mosques, and the appointment of child ambassadors. Other initiatives to support and promote the NDC were sponsored by private sector institutions such as travel agencies, banks, restaurants, and oil companies, all were coordinated by the NDS. The Community Participation Unit of the NDS initiated a mapping of all public participation activities and actors. The aim was to measure the supporting efforts deployed by CSOs, government entities and INGOs to the Dialogue. The results of this exercise revealed that around 3 million Yemenis participated in approximately 3500 NDC related grassroots activities conducted by more than 300 CSOs, youth initiatives and government institutions.

ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

Using the **Programme Results Framework from the Project Document / AWP** - provide an update on the achievement of indicators at both the output and outcome level in the table below. Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, clear explanation should be given explaining why, as well as plans on how and when this data will be collected.

| | <u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets | Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any) | Source of Verification |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p>Outcome 1⁸ Implementation of the Agreement moves forward according to agreed timelines and steps, on the basis of coherent technical, financial and administrative support</p> <p>Indicator: National Dialogue participation; Violence trends; Outcome document produced and level of consensus on agreements; Constitution adopted; Adherence to timelines</p> <p>Baseline: No Planned Target: Yes</p> | <p>Yes (Partially achieved): The project provided resources to implement the NDC, due to the NDC extension; the second phase (constitution drafting) was delayed and started in 2014.</p> | <p>Timelines and steps were amended, but this was done as part of a mediated process. The constitution process, which was scheduled to commence after the NDC close in September 2013, will now be delayed to early 2014. At the end of the reporting period, large sections of the Outcome Document (85%) were prepared and an agreement on the outstanding issues had been signed.</p> | <p>The NDC outcome document, Guarantees document, Archived documents of the meeting minutes for the WG sessions, plenaries, subgroups sessions and CC sessions: (2885 documents archived on papers, 3800 electronically archived documents, 1110 electronically archived meeting minutes.</p> |
| <p>Output 1.1 The National Dialogue and Constitutional process are provided with technical and political support, including lessons learned and comparative analysis and mediation / facilitation assistance when requested</p> <p>Indicator</p> <p>1.1.1 In-country availability of technical specialists for each working group</p> | <p>1.1.1 Yes. 19 experts were deployed to support the different Working Groups in federalism , women and youth, communications/media, human rights, constitutions and law</p> | | <p>Option papers and lessons learned, workshops materials</p> |

⁸ Note: Outcomes, outputs, indicators and targets should be **as outlined in the Project Document** so that you report on your **actual achievements against planned targets**. Add rows as required for Outcome 2, 3 etc.

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| <p>Baseline: Planned Target: Yes</p> <p>Indicator 1.1.2 Availability of mediation services Baseline: No Planned Target: Yes</p> <p>Indicator 1.1.3 # of international and or national experts mobilized on a short term basis to support comparative analysis and share lessons learned Baseline: 0 Planned Target: Based on needs</p> | <p>1.1.2 Yes. A mediation adviser from the UN HQ in NY was deployed to support political facilitation and meetings of the 8+8. SASG, ND SG and President Hadi facilitated these discussions in order to build consensus.</p> | | <p>- The Just Solution Agreement document on the southern Issue, Option papers and presentations used to facilitate the mediation meetings</p> |
| | <p>1.1.3 19 national and international consultants were deployed under this project/ one international coordinator to manage the deployments of the experts. NDS coordinated around 250 national consultant and 40 international expert deployed by other UN agencies, International counterparts and CSOs. By the end of the NDC more than 350 working paper were developed for the Working Group.</p> | | <p>- 350 Option papers and lessons learnt papers, reports of the SASG.</p> |

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| <p>Output 1.2 Well-resourced secretariats provide the administrative, logistical and technical support to the National Dialogue and Constitutional process structures, including Preparatory Committee, National Dialogue Committee, and Constitutional Commission</p> <p>Indicator 1.2.1 Availability of staff and required equipment</p> <p>Baseline: No</p> <p>Planned Target: Yes</p> | <p>1.2.1 Yes. NDS was established in Feb and was fully operational by end of March provided with all the needed logistics, Human Resources, equipment and technical support.</p> | | <p>Contracts and agreements, videos of activities , final NDS report, working papers, manuals printed for the Working Groups</p> |
| <p>Indicator 1.2.2 Timely organization and facilitation of planned consultations and other milestones in the National Dialogue and Constitutional process</p> <p>Baseline: No</p> <p>Planned Target: Yes</p> | <p>1.2.2 Yes: The NDC received operational and technical support in a time efficient manner. No activities or milestones were delayed due to logistical or technical reasons. One international and another 19 national facilitators facilitated the WG sessions on different stages. 31 trainings were conducted by the NDS to staff and delegates. Other resources were coordinated whenever the project resources were not enough with the assistance of NDS and UNOPS</p> | | <p>Videos and photos as a proof of the ongoing operations reflecting the size of it.</p> <p>TF Quarterly reports , weekly reports of the NDS and final NDS report</p> |

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| <p>Output 1.3 International assistance to the National Dialogue and the Constitutional process is well coordinated, with limited transaction costs for national actors and efficient allocation of resources</p> <p>Indicator 1.3.1 # of international assistance coordination meeting (through Trust Fund or other mechanisms);</p> <p>Baseline: No</p> <p>Planned Target: As needed</p> | <p>1.3.1 Coordination meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 7 YNDCRTF SC meetings (One virtual meeting). - 4 Donor meetings. - 3 Implementers meetings. - 6 International Counterparts. | | <p>Meeting minutes SC meetings approved tranches Meetings presentations</p> |
| <p>Indicator 1.3.2. Implementation rate of UN Joint Programme</p> <p>Baseline: Yes 60%</p> <p>Planned Target: Yes 100%</p> | <p>1.3.2 Yes The UN coordinated the efforts through the TF when possible and through other projects. 12 UN NDCR coordination working group meetings happened.</p> | <p>The UN agencies planned for activities through the TF, unfortunately the funds received were not enough to cover all the planned activities.</p> | <p>Implemented projects reports</p> |
| | <p><u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets</p> | <p>Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)</p> | <p>Source of Verification</p> |
| <p>Outcome 2 The outcome of the Implementation of the Transition Agreement reflects an inclusive, transparent, meaningful and participatory process.</p> <p>Indicator: Citizen participation in National Dialogue; Level of awareness; Outcome document and level of inclusion of stakeholder considerations; disaggregated voter turnout at Constitutional referendum</p> <p>Baseline: No</p> <p>Planned Target: Yes</p> | <p>Partial: (Due to unfunded activities of various UN partners, no quantitative data is available at the outcome level.</p> | <p>The overall process was broadly inclusive, transparent and participative. However funding issues prevented some targeted UN work from taking place. Furthermore security concerns and region specific factors led to a differential spread of coverage. Overall the NDS reached most citizens with awareness raising efforts, however a lesser proportion of Yemenis had the opportunity to feed in their views.</p> | <p>Website and media center videos of sessions, published articles on web and newspapers, flashes and video/audio productions.</p> |

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| <p>Output 2.1 Yemeni IDPs are able to participate effectively in the National Dialogue and the Constitutional process by advocating for and negotiating their respective interests</p> <p>Output 2.2 Yemeni women are able to participate effectively in the National Dialogue and the Constitutional process by advocating for and negotiating their respective interests</p> <p>Output 2.3 Yemeni adolescents are able to participate effectively in the National Dialogue and the Constitutional process by advocating for and negotiating their respective interests</p> <p>Output 2.4 Yemeni minorities, including persons with disabilities are able to participate effectively in the National Dialogue and the Constitutional process by advocating for and negotiating their respective interests</p> | <p>Owing to the late provision of funding to the Trust Fund, none of these outputs could be initiated. OSASG and NDS sought to find alternative resources to support this work, including coordinating the work of non-Trust Funded agencies and donors. This included working with US funded projects to establish 16 outreach tents in different governorates. OSASG also secured UN Peacebuilding funds to establish a Women and Youth forum project targeting women and youth Activists and help them coordinate their influencing of the NDC. Another 3500 grassroots activities around NDC were conducted by CSOs, and government institutions.</p> | <p>All of these outputs were not among the prioritized outputs where the funds received in the TF were didn't cover the proposed budget of the project. Yet some partnerships took place with the NDS to coordinate outreach, Civil society and communication through other projects like UNDP, IOM, NDI, RGB and others.</p> | |
| <p>Output 2.5 The population is aware of the existence and inclusivity of the national dialogue and constitutional process through the implementation of the secretariats' public information campaigns</p> <p>Indicator 2.5.1 # of televised townhalls Baseline:7 Planned Target:13</p> <p>Indicator 2.5.2 # video productions Baseline:10 Planned Target:15</p> | <p>2.5.1 Four televised town halls meetings under this project, another (16) town halls were coordinated with the NDS under other projects and agencies (UNDP/ IOM)</p> <p>2.5.2 Over 270 of TV flashes: 16 videos, 141 graphics, and 7 animated flashes were produced.</p> | | <p>- Website, TV flashes, archive of documented sessions and events, radio flashes, reports, articles, social media accounts, media unit reports, billboards, printed materials, songs</p> |

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| <p>Indicator 2.5.3 # of radio programs Baseline:10 Planned Target:15</p> <p>Indicator 2.5.4 # of caravans/bus tours organized Baseline:10 Planned Target:17</p> <p>Indicator 2.5.5 National Dialogue song and video clip Baseline: No Planned Target: Yes</p> <p>Indicator 2.5.6 # of Outdoor advertising realizations Baseline: 100 Taxis and 100 Buses, mobile advertisements Planned Target: 2000 Lampposts, 10000 Square Meters of roof-top, bridge, and tunnel billboards, 15000 Square Meters of street banners in rural locales.</p> | <p>2.5.3 Over 25 radio flashes were produced.</p> <p>2.5.4 Eighteen different governorates were visited by 219 delegates and over 13000 Yemeni citizens participated in the meetings discussions. 18 tents were established in 14 governorates implemented by IOM and coordinated with the NDS.</p> <p>2.5.5 12 songs were produced, 6 of which were filmed in video clips.</p> <p>2.5.6 Over 36000 m2 of outdoor materials (billboards, lamppost and banners) were placed in the main cities of 14 governorates. Other 31000 m2 were sponsored by public and private sectors institutions.</p> | | |
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iii) A Specific Story (Optional)

Problem / Challenge faced:

Standards of journalism in Yemen are low and there were numerous false media reports regarding the National Dialogue threatened to distort public perception of the Conference and its proceedings. Such incorrect reports included inaccurate information about the project's budget that claimed that the NDS was over \$70m. This impacted on public perceptions of value for money of the exercise, and inflated expectations of income from suppliers, Yemeni armed forces, private sector partners and state-owned media leading to high demands for provision of service to the process and to air public outreach messaging. Such intentional misinformation continued throughout the project and the NDS Media Department counted a daily average of 15 to 20 fabricated news stories in the first four months of the NDC. In addition to the prolonged dialogue which excessively consumed all the available budget for communication in a time where advocating for the outcomes was essential for the success of the process.

Programme Interventions:

The NDS media department first moved to quantify the issue. It then sought to issue correct information with regard to the issues which were subject to false reporting. The NDS also briefed international counterparts in order to ensure that partners were sharing the correct information to their implementers and through their civil society networks. Officially addressing each piece of misinformation would have given undue attention to misleading information so the NDS undertook a campaign of informally briefing trusted media in order to respond to attempts at misinforming the public. NDS social media platforms were also used in order to correctly inform opinion formers.

Result (if applicable):

Whilst false reporting did continue, the impact of it decreased. Unrealistic demands from suppliers and partners declined towards the second half of the conference and the NDS also managed to protect the volume of free broadcast space it had secured on state television, and free print/display space it had secured through private sector partners.

Lessons Learned: What did you (and/or other partners) learn from this situation that has helped inform and/or improve Programme (or other) interventions?

In the highly politicized environment surrounding Yemen's transition processes, and given that much of the media is overtly biased towards different elite factions, it is unrealistic to see this bias substantially diminish in the next phase. However, the results of this example show that responding through more trusted sources and using the collective networks of local and international actors can mitigate the impact of such false reporting. In the constitution process, an agreement with the government will be signed to make clear that the NDS/donors will only be responsible for production costs and not broadcast on state media. . The next communication and media plan will be more transparent and will have more flexibility to counter such issues as they arise.



III. Other Assessments or Evaluations (if applicable)

- Report on any assessments, evaluations or studies undertaken.

IV. Programmatic Revisions (if applicable)

In view of the funding shortfalls, outputs 2.1-2.4 will not be achieved and should be dropped from the results framework.

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